DESIGNS FOR KNOCKERS.

Fig. 1.

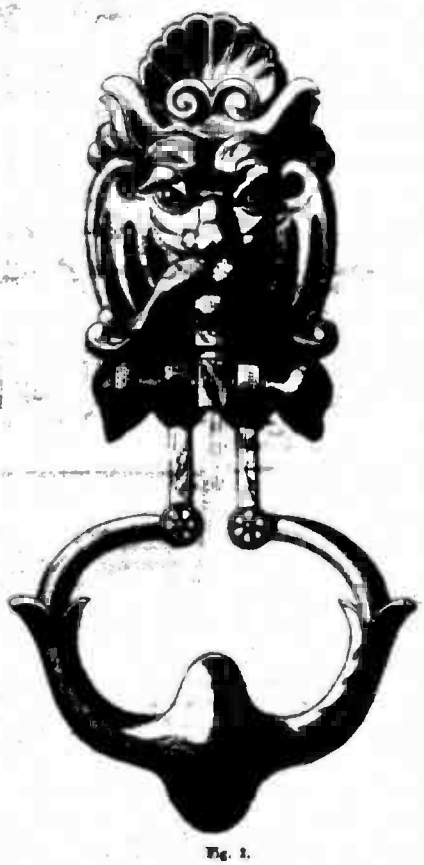

Fig. 2.

VINTERS, NEAR MAIDSTONE,

THE SEAT OF MR. JAMES WHATMAN.

This house, situate only a mile from Maidstone in the middle of an extensive and richly wooded park, stands on the site of one erected by Roger Vinter, about the year 1343: some part of the old building remains, with considerable portions of later James I. architecture.

The house is now being considerably enlarged and refronted—it stands on a steep hill, composed of the Kentish rag stone: that portion of the hill in front of the house is being excavated, and will be laid out in terraces; the stone got out is used in the construction of the building; all the carved work is in Caen stone; the ornamental window-heads, meant to conceal roller blinds, are of cast iron, coloured so as to harmonise with the Caen stone.—Mr. C. J. Richardson is the architect.

DESIGNS FOR KNOCKERS.

The excellence of design exhibited in the old decorative ironwork of the French metropolis is, as we have already remarked, well worthy of study and imitation, and it would appear that the opportunity has not been thrown away by the artists of Paris of the present day, who certainly evince more taste than we do in the production of embellishments in iron for exterior purposes. The subject is one which merits consideration, because, by a judicious combination (as formerly used) of wrought and cast-iron, an agreeable effect could be imparted to our doors and doorways, at a comparatively trifling cost. Ironwork for ecclesiastical use has of late years made remarkable strides, but we now urge that the material is capable of similar improvement as an accessory to domestic architecture. As supplying hints, some examples of old knockers from doors in Paris may prove useful to many of our readers. It will be seen, that while some of the specimens are as late as the beginning of the reign of Louis XIV., others must be ascribed to an earlier period. The street-doors from which we have stolen the knockers are in Rue d'Enfer, No. 37—fig. 1.; Rue Hautefeuille, No. 8—fig. 2. We will give others.

BITS OF GLASS.

In the staple articles of British manufacture in glass, says the *Birmingham Journal*, foreign competition in the home market is considerably lessened since 1846. "In window glass the consumption has fallen from 12,000 cwts. to 7,000; in plate glass from 69,000 square feet to 50,000; and in flint glass the consumption in 1849 was less than in 1846. A few facts will show that the extent to which we import this article is almost as insignificant as in the manufactures of metals. For example, while in 1849 our import of bottles was 43,000 cwts. our exports amounted to 232,476 cwts. In window glass we imported 7,639 cwts. and exported 17,255 cwts. In flint glass our imports were 26,000 lbs. while the exports amounted to no less than 2,046,544 lbs. Thus it will be seen that in this manufacture the amount of foreign competition is a mere fraction compared with the magnitude of even a portion of our transactions. The increase on foreign imports of ornamental glass from 1846 to 1849 inclusive was very great, being no less than 370,000 lbs. on 380,928 lbs. in all in 1846;" but there is already a reaction, and the Germans and other foreigners, we observe, are becoming alarmed at the recent advances of British manufacture in decorative or ornamental glass.——Mr. Wm. Blinkhorn, of Sutton, Lancashire, has patented some improvements in the manufacture of glass. He proposes to employ a hollow casting-table, the upper part and sides cast in one piece, with flanges rivetted to the bottom plate: a stream of water is kept running through this table, in the lower part on which are ovens for heating the water and the top plate to about 120 degrees Fah. to prevent injury to the plate when the metal is first poured from the crucible or pot on to the table. When, after repeated castings, the top plate of the table has been heated, the fires are raked out, and the temperature kept down to the required degree by the stream of cold water running through, or by means of several jets of cold water caused to play against the under surface of the top plate. The patentee also claims the constructing and arranging of machinery in such manner as that the plates shall be rolled thereby upon the casting-table, and transferred thereby from the casting-table to the annealing kiln.——The new processes of imitating gold, silver, and precious stones, in glass, have suggested the revival of an idea, some time ago noted in THE BUILDER, of applying such ornamental glass to the key-boards of the piano-forte, in a tasteful variety or iridescence of colours, in place of the cold black and white alternation hitherto used. As then remarked, if the new invention be not as cold and unpleasant to the touch as the ivory and ebony are to the eye, and if not too smooth and slippery for the gentle cushions usually applied to such electrifiers, it would add new grace to an instrument which is so often already a centre of varied attractions.——A memorial window of three lights has been executed by the Messrs. Pemberton, of Newhall-hill, for erection in the church at Chiverley, near Wolverhampton. Another memorial window has just been completed for Malpas Church, Monmouthshire, by Mr. George Rogers, of Worcester; it is also a triple light. It is now proposed to fill one or both of the great transept windows of Worcester Cathedral, in place of the eastern one, with stained glass, as a memorial to the late Queen Dowager: 500*l.* are calculated on.

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